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RRR000588

To: EIS\_Comments@ymmp.gov  
CC:  
Subject: EIS Comment

User Filed as: Not Categorized in ERMS

January 08, 2008 15:29:09

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The Commentors Name:

---> Dr. Dennis P Nelson

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Comment Text :

--> The NRC has as its primary responsibility the protection of the public from sources of radioactivity. The NRC has already failed in this responsibility by a rule making in 1997 which now allows nuclear medicine patients, who are highly radioactive, to mix freely with the general population and irradiate everyone around them, wherever people congregate, on trains and busses, in theaters, at public meetings, etc. This rule was passed for the convenience of the doctors and their patients and does not protect members of the unsuspecting general public.

1 [ Now the NRC is proposing once again to subject the public to another source of gratuitous radiation, namely the shipping/storage containers containing high level radioactive waste and spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors. The NRC proposes that this waste be shipped from its generation point with no immediate destination in mind. This plan to transport waste containers before the Yucca Mountain repository is ready to accept them is irresponsible at best and criminal at worst. There is no way that there can be any security and protection of the general public with these radioactive containers floating around, unsupervised, in the vast transportation network of the US. Trains parked in rail yards for extended periods; trucks parked at truck stops; and containers in transit or parked at interim storage facilities for perhaps decades, pose a serious risk of accidents, fires, terrorism, unauthorized access, etc. In bowing to political pressure, the NRC is failing once again in its primary mission to protect the public, and once again they are bowing to the convenience of the nuclear industry at the expense of the general

public.

A year ago on a trip to San Diego I passed two trucks carrying radioactive waste in the Texas panhandle on Interstate-40. I presume they were heading to some repository in New Mexico and that they at least had a destination. I was astounded that my Geiger counter read several hundred counts in just the few seconds it took to pass these trucks. Can you imagine standing or parking overnight next to them in a truck stop, restaurant or motel. These trucks are not adequately shielded, they violate the one milliroentgen rule for point sources, and they are unsafe to the general public. Can you imagine thousands of these trucks or rail cars wandering around the country aimlessly with no final destination just waiting for an accident, sabotage, or unintentional/unauthorized intrusion.

This plan is just plain irresponsible and dumb. If there is an incident the NRC will surely be the first to deny any knowledge and responsibility. If you at the NRC can't do your job of protecting the public, please have the decency to just resign and go home and stop wasting the taxpayer's money. You are dillusional if you think your job is simply to provide corporate welfare to the nuclear industry.

If nuclear power is such a good idea then let the power plants keep their waste. The people in the West don't want it, don't benefit from it and should not be subjected to the risk of transporting and storing it; nor should anyone along the trousands of miles of transportation routes.]

Sincerely,

Dennis Nelson, Ph.D.  
Director, Support and Education for Radiation Victims  
Kensington, MD

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